

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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JB
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Applicant : Bonnie R. Hames et al.)
Int. Appl. No.: PCT/US01/11825) Examiner: Jon P. Weber
Filing Date: April 10, 2001) Group Art Unit: 1651
Title: Improved Process For The) Ser. No. 10/031,216
Conversion of an Aqueous Biomass)
Hydrolyzate Into Fuels or Chemicals) Atty. Dkt. No. NREL 98-22
By the Selective Removal of)
Fermentation Inhibitors)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In advance of prosecution, and before this application is taken up for examination on the merits, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2 and 4 without prejudice.

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1. (Amended) A process of making a fuel or chemical from a biomass hydrolyzate comprising [the steps of]:
- (a) providing a biomass hydrolyzate;
 - (b) adjusting pH of [the] said biomass hydrolyzate within a range of 6 - 10;
 - (c) contacting a metal oxide selected from the group consisting of titanium dioxide, vanadium oxide, and zirconium oxide having an affinity for guaiacyl or